

Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 GAC-01 RSR-01 /117 W
----- 105843

R 041312 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4831
INFO USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, US, GW, GE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: SEABOARD WORLD AIRLINES CHARTER
FLIGHTS TO BERLIN SCHOENEFELD

1. A SEABOARD REPRESENTATIVE IN FRANKFURT HAS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY'S ADVICE AS TO WHETHER SEABOARD SHOULD ACCEPT A BID FROM INTERFLUG FOR ONE OR MORE CHARTER FLIGHTS BETWEEN CHICAGO AND SCHOENEFELD CARRYING PIGS FOR BREEDING. SEABOARD HAS AN AIRCRAFT ESPECIALLY EQUIPPED FOR LIVE ANIMALS, AND IS FREQUENTLY CALLED UPON FOR SUCH CHARTERS. THE FLIGHTS WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS IN JUNE, VIA COPENHAGEN AND THE NORTHERN ROUTE, AND EAST GERMAN LANDING RIGHTS AT SCHOENEFELD FOR SEABOARD WOULD BE OBTAINED BY INTERFLUG.

2. THE EMBASSY INQUIRED OF SEABOARD WHETHER SOME OTHER DESTINATION IN THE GDR, SUCH AS LEIPZIG, MIGHT NOT BE ACCEPTABLE INSTEAD OF BERLIN/ SCHOENEFELD. SEABOARD HAS RAISED THIS ALTERNATIVE WITH INTERFLUG, BUT HAS NO REPLY YET, AND THINKS IT MAY IN THE END FACE A CHOICE OF GOING INTO SCHOENEFELD OR LOSING THE CONTRACT (WHICH THEY

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THINK SAS WOULD LIKE TO GET).

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY SEES THIS PROPOSED CHARTER FLIGHT OR FLIGHTS AS BEING OF A SPECIALIZED AND PROBABLY NON- RECURRENT NATURE. WHILE THE EMBASSY IS UNAWARE OF ANY PREVIOUS COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS BY U. S. CARRIERS INTO EAST GERMANY, WE ALSO DO NOT KNOW OF U. S. LEGAL OR REGULATORY PROVISIONS WHICH MIGHT BLOCK SUCH FLIGHTS PRIOR TO U. S. RECOGNITION OF THE GDR. IN ADDITION TO THE OBVIOUS COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF FACILITATING A SALE OF U. S. BREEDING STOCK TO THE GDR, THERE MAY BE SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED BY THE U. S. IN PERMITTING ONE OR TWO FLIGHTS TO SCHOENEFELD TO TAKE PLACE AT THIS TIME.

4. THERE ARE A FEW COMPLICATING FACTORS. IF THE FLIGHTS WERE TO GO INTO SCHOENEFELD, AND THEREFORE ENTER THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE, THE FRENCH AND BRITISH WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY EXPECT THAT THEY SHOULD BE CONSULTED, OR AT LEAST INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE FLIGHTS. FILING OF FLIGHT PLANS IN BASC WOULD BE REQUIRED OF SEABOARD. ANOTHER POINT TO RECALL IS THAT PAN AM WAS DISSUADED FROM OPERATING A PASSENGER, RPT PASSENGER, CHARTER FLIGHT BETWEEN THE U. S. WEST COAST AND SCHOENEFELD IN MARCH (STATE 30530), BUT IT SEEMS TO THE EMBASSY THAT THE DELIVERY OF U. S. LIVESTOCK PURCHASED BY THE GDR IS QUITE A DIFFERENT MATTER FROM A PASSENGER CHARTER EVEN IF BOTH ARE COMMON CARRIAGE. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT SEABOARD BE TOLD THE USG HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THE FLIGHT TO SCHOENEFELD IF INTERFLUG INSISTS THE PIGS MUST BE DELIVERED THERE, PROVIDING THAT SEABOARD CAPTAINS FILE FLIGHT PLANS WITH BASC. HOWEVER, BEFORE TELLING THIS TO SEABOARD, WE WOULD PRESUMABLY WISH TO ASCERTAIN FROM THE FRENCH AND BRITISH THAT THEY HAD NO OBJECTIONS IN PRINCIPLE TO SUCH FLIGHTS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT' S VIEWS ON SEA- BOARD' S REQUEST. ALTHOUGH THE FLIGHTS DO NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL NEXT MONTH, INTERFLUG IS EXPECTED TO ASK SEABOARD TO SIGN A CONTRACT APPROXIMATELY WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK AND SEABOARD WOULD APPRECIATE THE USG' S VIEWS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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NMAFVVZCZ

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